



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC

Office Of The Secretary

September 25, 2008

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
United States Senator
1301 East 9th Street, Suite 1710
Cleveland OH 44114

Dear Senator Brown

This is in further reply to your inquiry on behalf [REDACTED], USA, regarding his request for records correction consideration through the Physical Disability Board of Review (PDBR). In your inquiry, you ask for information about this board, including its application procedures. With regard to the PDBR itself, the following information is provided:

The PDBR is statutorily empowered (Title 10, United States Code, Section 1554a) to reassess the accuracy and fairness of the combined disability rating assigned to Service members who were discharged as unfit for continued military service by the Military Departments with a combined rating of 20 percent or less and were not found to be eligible for retirement.

The Department of Defense published its guidance on the PDBR process on June 27, 2008. The Air Force, as the DoD lead component for this process, has drafted detailed implementing instructions (currently in coordination), modified an existing case processing contract, and bought equipment and secured facilities to conduct the review. It has also requested the other Service Secretaries to reassign medical and line personnel as soon as possible, and is in the process of filling the Board President position. It intends to have a DoD web site with information about the PDBR including frequently asked questions, (including several about application procedures) operating by October 1, 2008. The Air Force has an application form currently in DoD coordination and will be requesting an Office of Manpower and Budget (OMB) emergency waiver to use the form immediately while it complies with the federal register and notice requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act. Although there is not, as of the date of this letter, a firm implementation date, the Air Force will be accepting applications as soon as the form is completed and OMB approves its use. The Air Force will run a centralized, single point-of -contact application and case tracking system for all branches of Service.

We trust this information is helpful.

Sincerely

SHANE T. SULLIVAN, Lt Col, USAF
Deputy Chief, Congressional Inquiry Division
Office of Legislative Liaison